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from Heart of Europe(by Norman Davies)  
A Short History of Poland

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Russia's future was never more in question than it is today . . . and it is difficult to see any way out from an impasse that is a natural consequence of historical development. For Russia's development has always been projected outwards, not inwards.

Although the [Russian] state has grown with unparalleled rapidity, until in the course of a mere half-millennium the little principality of Muscovy became an immense empire covering one sixth of the globe, it has never developed social institutions, or economic performance at the same pace. Its entire energies have been directed to perfecting a state machine which is designed for external, not for internal expansion . . . and as a result, the needs of the State were bound to outpace the means of satisfying them. . . . The State was condemned from the outset to be the proverbial giant with feet of clay'. . . . This state machine, which has not rested on any institutions of social consent, has not been obliged to respond to society's aspirations, and has proved incapable of improving itself sufficiently to meet the growing demands made upon it. It is obvious that such a pattern of development must lead sooner or later to a dead end. . .

Extracts in translation from Roman Dmowski, 'Przyszlosc Rosji' ('The Future of Russia, 1909), Pisma, vol. XI (1938), reprinted as Przyszlosc Rosji--Zagadnienie rzadu, Orbis Books, London, n.d., pp. 5-6, 31-6.